

Immanuel Kant

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Biography

- German Philosopher
- Born April 22, 1724 in Königsberg, Germany
- Died February 12, 1804
- Multiple theories on moral philosophy



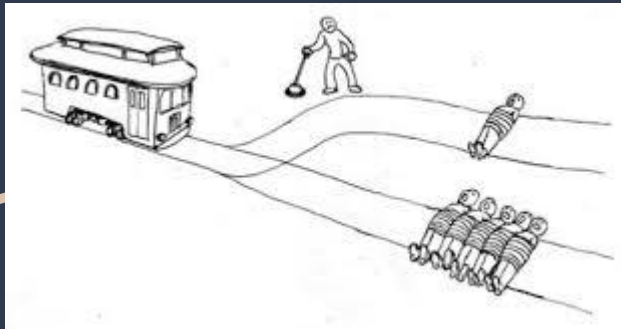
Early Life Theories



- Kant grew up in a lutheran pietist household
- Believed that the bible and the new morals/philosophical laws written in it, should be available to everyone despite social ranking
- Thought that the tradition and the authority of the church did not matter, and an individual should be able to figure out moral reasonings by themselves without influence



Deontology



- **Deontology:** study of duty
 - Kant believes that if you are working for the goal of getting something out of it, then you are not morally correct
- **Empiricism:** from the senses or experience
- **A Priori:** prior to experience
 - Kant believe that one should act the same for every situation, despite what one has experienced before. Do not act in a biased way. To be morally correct, one must act the same in every situation.
- **Good Will:** the only thing that is good in itself
 - Has an absolute value regardless of utility

Duty



- **Duty:** how the good (good will) manifests itself in persons
 - Action is how we distinguish duty from selfishness
- **Maxim:** rule of conduct
 - From instinct, we seek pleasure and avoid pain (selfishness)
 - Inclination, not dependant on the object of the action, but the principle of volition (duty)
- "I am never to act otherwise than so that I could also will that my maxim should become a universal law" - Kant
- **Universal Law:** can be applied to everyone, every place, and every time.
 - Thus, you cannot lie, because you are then willing that everyone lies

Lutheranism



- **Lutheranism:** each person can interpret scripture for themselves
 - Kant wanted each person to know morality for themselves.
- **Imperative:** command of reason
 - To violate this command would be irrational
- **Hypothetical Imperative:** based on suggested idea or theory (subjective)
- **Categorical Imperative:** absolute, unqualified, unconditional. It can be applied across all categories
 - There are no absolutes.
- Kant believed that our **duty** is to be good at all times. We are to act as if the **maxim** of our actions were to become a **universal law** of nature.

Absolute Worth



- **Absolute Worth:** everyone is worth the same
- “Act always to treat each person, including yourself, never as a means only but also as an end in themselves” - Kant
 - Highlights fundamental equality
- Kant believes that each person has their own worth and it is based on rational purpose
- We live in a **Kingdom of Ends**, where we decide morals and are subject to ourselves.
- Each person has **Dignity** because they obey the law that they make.
- All choices need to be free, if they are not free and are influences, then they do not originate from **Good Will**.